*Previous references.*

File No. 67 of

1903

Serial Nos. /

(Gen. Trivan)

*Later references.*

# GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

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*Serial Nos.* /— 2

**Part B. for—**

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SUBJECT.

Donation of Rs. 100 to the Madura Tamil Sangam.

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Sl. 1 Memorial dy 13.7.03 from Mr P. Pandithurai Thevar Founder & Trustee of the Madura Tamil Sangam Represents the objects of the Sangam and prays for help as a Govt of Patronage.

2 H 793-5-dy 10.9.03 To the Founder & Trustee of the Sangam The Comptr & the I. G. of Edn. Sanctions a donation of Rs 100 the Amount being met from "23 Misc (5-) Charitable Donations &c"

G. R. S. 58

OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
162
27 JUL 1903
H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF M.

Serial 1

# To

# His Highness The Maharajah of Mysore,

The humble Memorial of P. Pandithorey Thevar, President-Founder and Trustee of "The Madura Tamil Sangam," Madura, Madras Presidency,

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

1. That the City of Madura—the Halasya of the Skanda Purana—is the Capital of the District of the same name in the Presidency of Madras.

2. That, for the beauty of its temples and ancient buildings and for the sacredness of the place, it holds a unique position and is known to European travellers as the Athens of Southern India and, to all Sakti worshippers throughout the length and breadth of India, it is the seat of the Raja Shyamala Peeta and it is also the Kadambavana referred to in Lalita Sahasranama as "Sree Kadambavana Vasini."

3. That it was here that the sixty four Lilas of Siva took place, as enumerated in the Halasya Mahatmya of the Skanda Purana.

4. That it was here again that the ancient Tamil Sangams flourished under the patronage of the Pandya, Chola and Chera Kings of old.

5. That the Tamil language is an ancient, independent and classical language. It had and still has a vast literature which will hold its place among the grandest literatures of the civilised world.

6. That this language is now spoken by about 25 millions of people in Southern India, Ceylon, Burma, The Straits Settlements and other places.

7. That the Devotional Songs in this language of the great Siva Acharyas and of the Vaishnavite Alwars are styled "the Dravida Vedas" and the Tamil Prabanthas of Sree Nammalwar &c have been moulding the religious and ethical ideals of the Vaishnavites in the Northern parts of India, through the instrumentality

of the late Govardhana Rengachariar of Muttra fame. These Tamil Works throw a flood of light on Bhakti and Gnana Margas and are an invaluable aid to Sanskrit Works on Advita or Visishtadvaita Philosophies.

8. That still a very large, rare and valuable collection of manuscripts in this language lies hidden, without seeing the light of day through the Press. Among these, are Medical Works by great Rishies like Agasthyar, on palm leaves: and these, if transcribed on paper and printed and published, together with translations into other languages, will be a great boon to the Tamil knowing world, not to speak of the valuable addition they will be to Medical Science Literature in general.

9. That. of late, the claims of this language have been ably championed by the Revd. G. U. Pope in England and his translations of some of the works have been encouraged even by the Secretary of State for India in Council.

10. That. to resuscitate the study of this famous literature and to encourage researches into this language, and to reclaim and preserve old manuscripts from oblivion, Sangams or Societies were formed at various intervals, centuries ago, and three such Sangams flourished in days past—patronised by the three Powerful Kingdoms of Chera, Chola and Pandya. Pandits of very great intellectual attainments were Members thereof, and classical works by these great authors are still extant.

11. That. owing to the fall of the Pandya and Chola Kingdoms and owing to the advent of English as the language of the Rulers, this vast Tamil literature—which is at once a rich mine and a store-house of the poetic, philosophic, æsthetic and intellectual gems of the ancient South Indians—has suffered much, and, if still neglected, is likely to become extinct in the near future.

12. That. to save an ancient language from deterioration and its rich literature from extinction, and to develop it by writing new works embodying the Western scientific thought and culture, and by translating useful works from other languages, a Sangam called "The Madura Tamil Sangam" was formed at Madura, 2 years ago, which has since then been doing useful work in the shape of reclaiming old and valuable manuscripts and printing old works which have not seen the light of day.

13. That an idea of the work done by this Sangam during the brief period of its existence may be formed from the following remarks entered in the Visitors' Book on 30—1—03 by A. G. Cardew Esquire, M. A., I. C. S., Collector of Madura, and now Acting Secretary, Local, Municipal and Educational Departments of the Madras Government:—

"I have had much pleasure in visiting the Madura Tamil Sangam founded and created by Mr. P. Pandithorey Thevar. Of the branches of work which

are carried on, the one which appeals most to me is the study and preservation of ancient documents, a line of research which may save works of real value from destruction. The efforts made in other directions for the encouragement of the study of the Tamil language are, however, also praise-worthy, and it is refreshing to see a Hindu Gentleman of Zemindary rank giving his time and money to the promotion of literary and historical enquiries. Mr. P. Pandithorey Thevar deserves all possible credit for this enterprise and it will, I hope, be perpetuated and extended so as to be a real source of improvement in the general knowledge of the chief South Indian Vernacular."

14. That a School called "The Sen Tamil Kalasalai," for the education of boys in this language, along with Sanskrit and English, has been opened, the boys being educated and fed and clothed and supplied with books—all gratis. The Tamil Districts of Madura, Tinnevelly, and Trichinopoly form the stronghold of foreign Missions such as the S. P. G., Roman Catholic, Luthern and American Missions and some of the Missions have established Schools and Colleges in these various Districts, in which the Missionaries are very active in the work of converting our fellow-religionists to Christianity, the Missionaries being very largely successful in their work, owing to their being powerfully aided by immense contributions from Europe and America, and in consequence, conversions of Brahmin and other Hindu Students are of frequent occurrence. To check this and to instil into the minds of our uneducated countrymen the Elementary Principles of our Hindu Religion, preachers are trained in this School, for the purpose of delivering lectures to the public, and it is intended, if funds permit, to send them to each District to preach publicly on festive occasions.

15. That a Library called "The Pandian Library," which contains a large collection of Tamil, Sanskrit and English books and is being added to and enlarged from time to time, has also been opened, it being freely accessible to the Public at large.

16. That a large Printing Press called "The Tamil Sangam Press," well equipped with machines, types and other requirements of a premier printing office, has further been established.

17. That the Sangam edits monthly in the above Press a highly literary Tamil Magazine, called "The Sen Tamil," for promoting the cause of Tamil Literature, Morals, Science, Art, Philosophy and Religion, besides enriching the Literature by valuable translations from other languages.

18. That there are now on the Rolls of the Sangam about 70 Pandits of a very high order of proficiency grouped into four divisions—Tamil, Sanskrit, Anglo-Tamil and Anglo-Sanskrit Pandits.

19. That Examinations for proficiency in Tamil, open to University students, are annually held in different centres in 9 Districts and prizes and certificates are awarded and issued to the successful among them, for the purpose of encouraging such students in their Vernacular studies.

20. That. in this way, the Sangam tries to do what it can, not only to preserve the Tamil language from disappearance but to restrain our children and our countrymen from entering the fold of Christianity.

21. That the Setupati of Sree Setu Bandh Rameswaram and the Rajah of Ramnad is the Patron of the Sangam and he has materially assisted the Sangam.

22. That, owing to the paucity of funds, the good works so far done and the still more good works to be done are threatened with embarrassment. A sum of at least one lakh of Rupees is needed for the permanent working of the Sangam.

23. That it is the duty of all patriots and especially of Ruling Chiefs like Your Highness to patronise the cause of our Literature and Religion by liberally contributing towards the Fund.

In the interests of our sacred language and literature and a sacred religion and in the interests of a large majority of South Indian Hindus, the Memorialist, therefore, begs to request Your Highness to be graciously pleased to lend the use of Your Highness's name also as Patron of the Sangam and extend Your Highness's timely munificent help to this sacred cause and thus save a noble language from deterioration and decay.

For which act of Grace, on Your Highness's part, the Memorialist will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Your Highness's humble Memorialist and Servant,

Pandithorey

*Zemindar of Palavanatham.*

MADURA,
13—7—03.

☞ *Rajah Sethupathy Avergal's kind letter of recommendation is herewith submitted.*

TAMIL SANGAM PRESS, MADURA.

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

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Serial 2

Read memorial dated 13th July 1903 from Mr. P. Pandithorey Thevar, President-Founder and Trustee of "The Madura Tamil Sangam" for patronage.

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Order thereon No. dated

H. D 793-5 & 10.9.03

10.

The memorial in question contains an outline of the objects of the Madura Tamil Sangam, and of the efforts so far made on behalf of the promoters of the Sangam for the advancement of the Tamil language and literature. In token of his appreciation of the movement, His Highness the Maharaja is pleased to sanction a donation of ₹100/- towards the funds of the Sangam.

The amount will be met from "23 Miscellaneous (5) Charities, Donations, &c.

Secretary 7/9/03

To.

Mr. P.Pandithorey Thevar, President-Founder and Trustee of "The Madura Sangam" Madura.

The Comptroller to Government.

" Inspector General of Education.

Coupd 9/9/03